

RESOURCE SUMMARY: Leveraging Weatherization Assistance Program Funds for Greater Impact

Under federal law, all Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) State Program Administrators are empowered to invest in teaming up with their subgrantees and local utilities or other state program administrators to develop expanded, non-federal funding streams, and coordinated delivery systems. Successful “leveraging” of WAP funding to coordinate programs can offer a win-win-win:

- **For weatherization programs**, federal dollars stretch further by pooling with funding from other sources, increasing the number of qualified homes served, and supporting a larger qualified workforce in the community
- **For utilities**, coordinating program spending with WAP reduces administrative barriers of serving hard-to-reach, low-income customers, delivers high-quality service by accessing the WAP network of qualified professionals and aligning with WAP’s *Quality Work Plan* (QWP) requirements, ensures high rates of customer satisfactionⁱ and

verifiable energy savings, and prevents duplicating services in eligible homes

- **For customers**, a “one-stop shop” for receiving coordinated and comprehensive weatherization services from a known local institution can reduce energy burden and improve comfort, health, and safety for more families.

State networks that have actively leveraged funds see meaningful increases in weatherization services provided:ⁱⁱ

- For every dollar of WAP funding in 2016, \$1.62 of non-federal funds were leveraged by states and local agencies.
- For 10 states, non-federal dollars made up more than half of weatherization funds available in 2016.
- WAP subgrantees were able to use non-federal funds as the sole source for work on over 32,000 additional homes in 2016, about a quarter of all homes

weatherized by the network, as well as supplemental funds for work in other DOE- or LIHEAP-funded weatherization units.

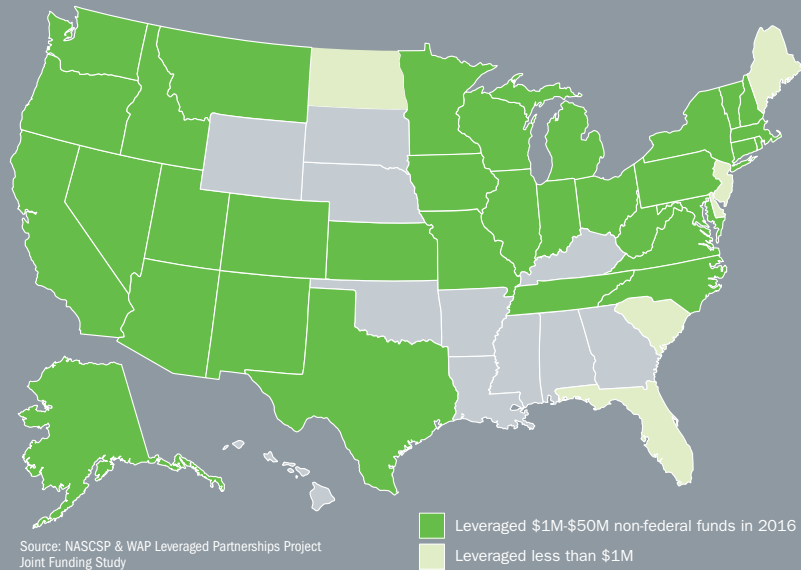
Practices from Active Leveraging Networks

Among the 39 networks of state grantees, local subgrantees, and energy and Community Action associations currently leveraging WAP funds, several common strategies helped make leveraged programs effective. Some strategies can help kick-off leveraging activities, or expand the non-federal dollars already being leveraged, and ensure all funds are well managed:

1) Grantees can set aside WAP funds in the state plan to establish and maintain relationships with managers of other funding sources, in coordination with subgrantees (see text box for details). These activities can be hosted within the state Community Action association

Weatherization Programs in 34* States Leveraged \$1 million–\$50 million of Non-Federal Funds in 2016

*an additional 5 programs leveraged less than \$1million



Source: <http://www.opportunitystudies.org/leveraging/>

ⁱ See WAP Client Satisfaction Survey, 2014 - https://weatherization.ornl.gov/Retrospectivepdfs/ORNLT_M-2014_335.pdf

ⁱⁱ “Weatherization Assistance Program Funding Report, PY 2016.” Accessible at <http://www.nascsp.org/data/files/weatherization/publications/nascsp%202016%20wap%20funding%20survey%20final-web%20display.pdf>

Statutory Language on Leveraging WAP funds:

42 USC § 6864

■ (a) In general

The Secretary [of Energy] shall, to the extent funds are made available for such purpose, provide financial assistance to entities receiving funding from the Federal Government or from a State through a weatherization assistance program under section 6863 or section 6864 of this title for the development and initial implementation of partnerships, agreements, or other arrangements with utilities, private sector interests, or other institutions, under which non-Federal financial assistance would be made available to support programs which install energy efficiency improvements in low-income housing.

■ (b) Use of funds

Financial assistance provided under this section may be used for-

1. the negotiation of such partnerships, agreements and other arrangements;
2. the presentation of arguments before State or local agencies;
3. expert advice on the development of such partnerships, agreements, and other arrangements; or
4. other activities reasonably associated with the development and initial implementation of such arrangements.

(e.g., California, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon) or in a lead subgrantee agency (e.g., Virginia, Washington, West Virginia).

2) Capitalize on the intake and outreach process of local subgrantees to ensure a streamlined application process for households to apply and qualify for weatherization and energy services from multiple state and utility programs (e.g., Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas).

3) Utilize the DOE WAP certified and trained workforce to ensure all leveraged funders can trust they are paying for high quality weatherization work, monitored by the WAP subgrantee and grantee. Also, offer trainings on WAP's standard work specifications and the DOE-supported *QWP certification* for WAP workforce and residential retrofit contractors, along with independent *Quality Control Inspectors* (QCI). (All weatherizations with leveraged funds are inspected by a QCI. States where utilities use QCI for additional efficiency programs include: Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Washington).

4) Invest in a common database at the state grantee or local subgrantee level for local weatherization providers and funders to input and track measures, funding sources, and total homes served by (or on the waiting list for) the leveraged programs (e.g., Minnesota, Ohio, Washington, and Wisconsin).

5) Conduct regular evaluations to verify all partners' goals are being achieved, assess the coordinated process, verify total energy savings, and identify areas for improvement (e.g., California, Idaho, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, and Vermont).

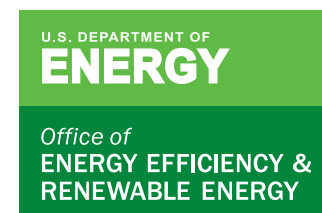
"DOE highly supports Grantee and Subgrantees in the exchange of ideas and development of expanded partnerships."
- WAP Program Year 2018 Grant Guidance

Additional Resources

Programs across the country have demonstrated the significant opportunity leveraging offers to provide more services to a greater number of households. Based on these successes, a suite of resources on how states and local agencies can get started with leveraging can be found at communityactionpartnership.com/energy-partnerships/. Resources include:

- "Leveraging your WAP: Why and How"
- Examples of State Plan Leveraging Language
- Report on Leveraged Non-Federal Funds for WAP, Program Year 2016

For more information, contact stateandlocal@ee.doe.gov. ■



For more information, visit: energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-assistance-program